caused to the operator of the Power Thersher. Some of the State Governments have their own schemes for insurance/payment of compensation to the victims of accidents in the agriculture sector.

(c) and (d) The national Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) has been offered to all the States and the Union Territories. 19 States and 2 Union Territories have implemented the scheme in the 437 Districts.

Appointment of National Director of NATP

1043. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the candidate selected by Agriculture Scientists Recruitment Board for the post of National Director, National Agriculture Technology Project during 1999, could not joint since a case of corruption was pending;

(b) whether ASRB had selected and recommended only the above name for the above post;

(c) whether ICAR submitted another name erroneously to the President, ICAR, leading to the appointment of the present incumbent of the post;

(d) whether the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture had initiated notings regarding above in the file during 2000; and

(e) if so, whether action is proposed to be initiated after an enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) in response to requisition given by the ICAR for the post of National Director, NATP the ASRB made available its recommendations. At the item of processing of the recommendations it was observed that the candidate recommended by the Board was not free from vigilance angle. The candidature of the recommended candidate was therefore cancelled with the approval of the Competent Authority.

(c) No, Sir, in view of the fact that the candidature of the recommended candidate by the Board was cancelled. The ASRB was requested to make available another name, if any, for the post from the Reserve List.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. After considering the notings of the then Minister of State [Agriculture] the then Agricultural Minister did not approve the recommendations of the ASRB, *inter-alia* the A.M. also made the following observation:

"Is there any procedure available at present to ensure that ASRB do not consider tainted officers?"

The matter was examined and it was observed that the Officer whose name was recommended by the ASRB was not an employee of the ICAR at the time of making application for the post. His application was received in the ASRB through his employer at the relevant point of time. The ASRB considered his candidature on the basis of no objection given to him by his employer at that time. However, at the time of processing the recommendation of the ASRB, it was observed by the ICAR that the candidate recommended by the ASRB for the post of National Director, NATP was involved in a C.B.I. inquiry. In view of this the recommendation of the ASRB was not approved by the Agriculture Minister.

Achievements of National Agriculture Policy

1044. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of achievements of national agricultural policy which was announced in July, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): National Agriculture Policy was announced in July, 2000. The Policy is under implementation. Against an annual growth rate in excess of 4% envisaged in the National Agriculture Policy, the rate of growth of agriculture and allied sector in the year 2001-02 has been 5.7% at 1993-94 prices.

Losses of DMS

†1045. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Milk Scheme has been constantly suffering losses for the past few years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.